
The Navy Public Affairs Library (NAVPALIB)
A service of the Navy Office of Information, Washington DC
Send feedback/questions to navpalib@opnav-emh.navy.mil

Date: Thu, 4 May 1995 16:23:58 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: Naval Service Medical News (NSMN) 95-18

R 040246Z MAY 95 ZYB
FM BUMED WASHINGTON DC//00//
SUBJ/PUBLIC AFFAIRS-NAVAL SERVICE MEDICAL NEWS (NSMN) (95-18)//
POC/P.C. BISHOP/CAPT/MED-00P (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)/-/TEL:(202)
653-1315/TEL:DSN 294-1315//

RMKS/1. THIS SERVICE IS FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION AND NEWS OF INTEREST TO NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEMBERS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, FAMILY MEMBERS AND RETIRED BENEFICIARIES OF NAVY MEDICINE. MAXIMUM AND TIMELY REDISTRIBUTION OR FURTHER REPRODUCTION AND USE BY ACTION ADDRESSEES IS ENCOURAGED. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS (CMC). THE COMMANDANT HAS AUTHORIZED TRANSMISSION TO MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES.

2. HEADLINES AND GENERAL INTEREST STORIES THIS WEEK:

(950143)-Commander, NMC Portsmouth, Reports from Oklahoma City
(950144)-Second Seaman-to-Admiral Board to Convene in September
(950145)-MSC Officer Selected for Logistics Fellowship Program
(950146)-MC Officer a Winner in USNI Essay Contest
(950147)-Allergy Immunology Clinic Keeps 'em Flying
(950148)-Exercise Unified Endeavor 95
(950149)-Navy Medical Department People Involved in Operations

HEADLINE: Commander, NMC Portsmouth, Reports from Oklahoma City
CNMC - Oklahoma City (NSMN) -- We all know the city now, far better than we ever thought we would. I arrived there three days after the bombing of the Federal Building, having arranged a trip home to a small farm 120 miles away the day before.

My college roommate of many years ago, Dr. Perry Taaca, had arrived on the bombing scene within minutes of the blast and was involved in the early efforts to rescue people and retrieve bodies from the rubble. He had since established a supply center across the street from the site and provided supplies from aspirin to boots to raingear to tools for the rescue workers converging on the scene from all over the United States. He asked me to come down and assist him, and I did so, for four days. My assistance to the effort was minimal; I was primarily a very highly educated janitor and sorter of supplies. But, I had the opportunity to talk with the volunteers and rescue workers at great length and, through friendship with several of the workers, had the opportunity to tour the site extensively, including the 'pit' so often referred to on television. What I have done is record some of the impressions I received during those four days.

Tragedy, of course.

Tremendous resiliency.

Tremendous anger at the forces and individuals who did this atrocity.

Pride -- of everyone involved. No individual, or groups of such, can still that pride. Rescue workers from all over the country -- Oklahoma, California, Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Texas, New York -- from everywhere, all exhibiting professionalism, dedication, compassion, caring.

I talked to them at length, and one of my friends on the California squad told me that ordinarily when they work a disaster, 95 percent of their effort is directed toward the work and maybe 5 percent toward the community.

But, this was different. Why? He wasn't sure; perhaps the nature of the disaster, and the fact that so many children were victims. But, he thought it was more than that.

It was the thousands of letters and posters that were posted around the explosion site, on every conceivable surface, from children and parents and teachers and churches, all saying, "Thank you for caring." It was the demonstrated caring and love of the community and the anger of the nation. It was everyone reaching out, to hold and to comfort.

It was a squad that had worked 12 hours, all night, and faced injuries and near death when a large concrete slab slipped in the pit, who in the morning, instead of going to bed, after eight days of continuous effort, did something else. They showered and went en masse to a local grade school from whom they had received multiple letters of thanks. There, they were greeted as heroes, and role models, and loved and brave individuals, by all the children and teachers.

They all cried, and returned to work the next night more charged up than they had been eight days previously when they had arrived fresh on the scene. My California friend, CAPT Ben Ho, USN (Ret.), said this was something totally different; for the first time they had multiple crews from around the nation who refused to leave when it was their time to rotate. They felt that they had received more than they had given, and wanted to continue to pull bodies from the rubble, and perhaps achieve that miracle that everyone logically knew would no longer occur -- find someone still alive.

I sat at night and watched the four huge cranes you have all seen on television, with dozens, or hundreds, of people working through the rubble below with their swinging arms, rock by rock, body by body. The scene was surreal -- lit by bright arc lights, flags flying from the tops of every crane, and from all possible corners of the building itself. Every time a worker found a flag in the rubble, it was hung from the building, and became a symbol -- of life, or pride, or the ability to get back up against seemingly impossible odds. I'm not sure; it was something different for every person there. Children's toys -- wagons, tricycles, slides -- bent, but still there, waiting for someone to come and play. Search dogs, everywhere. Someone started tying stars and stripes bandannas around their necks, and all the workers started wearing them around their necks, and on their heads. Another symbol -- of something, again different to each of them, but to all a gesture of defiance to the men who did this

atrocities, and, again, a statement of absolute refusal to be defeated.

By the time I left there Saturday, I shared many friends with many other people. I left there very proud to be from Oklahoma, but equally proud to be part of an America -- MY America -- where we will not accept these events as a normal part of life. This is NOT Beirut, or Iraq. The cults, the crazies, the hate groups, the idiots -- they won't gain the upper hand. And, they won't make the federal government turn this into a police state. Why? Because the common person out there, every one of us, is not really so "common" after all. We understand compassion, and we know justice, and we won't accept less.

The Heartland of America is not just centered in Oklahoma; it stretches from coast to coast. We will survive these times. While the disaster in Oklahoma City represents a tremendous tragedy, it does -- and never will -- represent defeat!

Story by RADM William J. McDaniel, MC

Commander, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA

-USN-

HEADLINE: Second Seaman-to-Admiral Board to Convene in September
NNS Washington (NSMN) -- The second Seaman-to-Admiral officer accession board will meet in September to select 50 outstanding active duty enlisted members for direct commissions.

The board will meet 11-22 September to choose the 50 selectees and 10 alternates. To be eligible, applicants must be selected for or serving in paygrade E-5 and above and not have reached their 27th birthday by 30 September 1995. The age limit ensures that officers have the opportunity to have a full career without regard to any statutory age limitation. This requirement is not waivable.

Following selection, candidates will attend Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, FL. After successful completion of initial sea duty and warfare qualification, officers will attend the Naval Postgraduate School to receive a bachelor's degree from the Postgraduate School and a consortium of schools in the Monterey, CA, area.

Applications are due 1 July 1995. More information on the application process is available from NAVADMIN 86/95.

Story by LT Dan Bates, BUPERS Public Affairs

Reprinted from Navy News Service 19/95 of 19 April 1995

-USN-

HEADLINE: MSC Officer Selected for Logistics Fellowship Program
BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- LCDR Mary M. Harrahill, MSC, has been selected to attend a 12-month fellowship program in materiel logistics. The position is a partnership with Concepts in Healthcare Inc., a Boston-based health care consulting organization and recognized leader in the industry specializing in logistics reengineering. This is a very unique opportunity, and the first logistics fellowship to be offered, enabling a Medical Service Corps officer to acquire and incorporate into Navy medicine leading edge practices essential in today's rapidly changing environment.

The Logistics Fellowship was envisioned by the Surgeon General's Specialty Advisor for Materiel Logistics, CAPT Thomas R. Defibaugh, MSC. Recognizing a need to examine logistics innovations in civilian health care organizations, Defibaugh set about the task of establishing a mechanism to accomplish this and hone the skills of Medical Service Corps logisticians in emerging advances. This includes initiatives such as managed care, right-sizing strategies, technology advances, facility design innovations, and health care contracting. Medical Service Corps officers must be poised and able to capitalize on the opportunities presented by these evolving programs. The fellowship program is one mechanism to ensure our Medical Department officers are equipped to do just that.

The first hurdle in establishing the logistics fellowship was selecting a civilian organization offering the innovative environment and successfully tackling the challenges envisioned by Defibaugh. The American Society of Healthcare Materiel Managers (ASHMM) was consulted and a list of potential organizations was provided. Among them was Concepts in Healthcare Inc. Subsequent discussions with the president of Concepts in Healthcare, Mr. Tom Hughes, revealed high interest in creating a fellowship program and complementary interest in health care issues. Through the support and assistance of the director of the Navy Medical Service Corps, the program became a reality.

"I am extremely optimistic about the prospects this program offers and the caliber of applicants that made for an extremely competitive selection process," said Defibaugh. "I firmly believe that such programs benefit both organizations and make us more capable of providing quality medical care to our customers."

Harrahill will depart in October 1995 to begin work with Concepts in Healthcare.

Story by LCDR Bill Kinney, MSC

-USN-

HEADLINE: MC Officer a Winner in USNI Essay Contest

NAVHOSP Beaufort, SC (NSMN) -- LT Christopher Devereaux, MC, USNR, a staff internist at Naval Hospital Beaufort, recently received a Bronze Medal and \$500 from the U.S. Naval Institute. The award, presented 26 April during the Institute's 121st Annual Meeting in Annapolis, was for the Vincent Astor Memorial Leadership Essay Contest. Devereaux's award winning essay, "Combat Leadership and the Media," will be published in the July issue of USNI's "Proceedings" magazine.

-USN-

HEADLINE: Allergy Immunology Clinic Keeps 'em Flying

NAVHOSP Pensacola, FL (NSMN) -- It has nothing to do with talk radio, but Naval Hospital Pensacola's "Rush Therapy" has assisted in reducing the wheezing of regional military airdales, allowing them to get back into the cockpit.

It costs the U.S. Navy about \$1 million to send a student pilot through the jet training pipeline -- and some of those would-be aviators come down with allergic disorders that could

prevent them from completing that training.

In an effort to save the armed forces many millions of training dollars, the naval hospital's Allergy Immunology Clinic uses Rush Therapy -- or Rush Immunotherapy -- to get those flyers back on the flightline, and into the air, within a couple of weeks vice being grounded for six months using conventional methods for treating allergies.

In the past few weeks, the clinic has put Army, Marine Corps and Navy pilots from Fort Rucker, AL, Pensacola, and Meridian, MS, back in the air in minimal time. "We can't usually let these pilots back in the air using conventional allergy-related treatments," said CDR Thomas G. Westbrook, MC, an allergist and immunologist at Naval Hospital Pensacola. "It could take up to six months for them to complete treatment."

Westbrook instead has a planned course of immunotherapy for each specific allergy patient. After standard skin tests determine allergic reactions, he gives patients multiple injections -- up to 5-10 per day -- with increasing doses of the substances to which they are allergic. While taking the increased doses, either as an inpatient or outpatient, the patients are monitored over two to five days by trained personnel of the Allergy Immunology Clinic as a precautionary measure.

"It's an accepted form of treatment, but there are very few clinics in the country doing Rush Therapy," said Westbrook, who studied it at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Aurora, CO, and the National Jewish Hospital in Denver. Westbrook is also an internist.

"The benefits of the Rush Immunotherapy -- beyond that of getting pilots back in the air -- include a lower need for regular medication use," he said, "and the likelihood that with continued therapy the patient's allergic sensitization will resolve or significantly improve with time."

Rush Immunotherapy is also used for patients with severe insect allergy. "This can be accomplished over a two-day period significantly reducing the time needed to reach a protective maintenance injection," said Westbrook.

Allergic disorders affect one in every five people. The most common substances producing allergic symptoms include things found around the house -- dust, pet dander, and mold spores. There are also seasonal allergies caused by various tree, grass and weed pollens.

-USN-

HEADLINE: Exercise Unified Endeavor 95

NSHS DET Fort Sam Houston, TX (NSMN) -- Two Navy Medical Department personnel recently participated in CINCUSACOM's first major computer-assisted joint exercise. The exercise was designed to train a commander and his staff on Joint Task Force (JTF) operations.

In Exercise Unified Endeavor 95, the Commander III Corps (Fort Hood, TX) was JTF 780 Commander with supporting elements and personnel from throughout the United States. Unified Endeavor was a three-phase exercise which started in January 1995 with Phase I for training key individuals. Phase II occurred in

February for the crisis action planning and operation order development. Plan execution was in Phase III during April. The JTF was given a mission in response to a crisis situation within the Southwest Asia scenario.

The medical mission of this exercise was to form, deploy and establish a JTF Surgeon's section in support of JTF operations. Further to deploy, establish, sustain and redeploy the JTF Surgeon's staff. During the exercise, CDR Danny Scarborough, MSC, served as Deputy JTF Surgeon. During Phase III, LT Jean Sherrer, MSC, served as the Blood Officer.

The JTF staff consisted of personnel, both officer and enlisted, from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. One of the major reasons for the overall success of the exercise was the manner in which members of the various service components came together as a cohesive work group to accomplish the mission. Story submitted by the Naval School of Health Sciences Bethesda Detachment in Fort Sam Houston

-USN-

HEADLINE: Navy Medical Department People Involved in Operations BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- The Navy Medical Department continues to support the Navy and Marine Corps team through deployments with the fleet and humanitarian operations. Here is the latest update on where our medical people are on assignment.

Medical forces currently on operational assignment are:

Operation Sea Signal

Medical/Dental augmentation personnel: 65

The Navy Medical Department is in full support of Operation Sea Signal. Seven Medical Corps, one Medical Service Corps, five Nurse Corps officers and 31 Hospital Corpsmen are deployed to U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, providing medical treatment for approximately 21,000 Haitian and Cuban migrants, in addition to providing medical support to many afloat platforms. Additionally, 21 personnel are assigned to CJTF 160, to include six Medical Corps, four Nurse Corps and 11 Corpsmen. They are currently working with Air Force and Army medical personnel, providing psychiatric services to the migrant population.

Operation Full Accounting

Navy Medical Corps officers and Independent Duty Corpsmen are supporting this operation by volunteering to serve tours ranging from just under two weeks to two months. Eight missions remain for FY95. Independent Duty Corpsmen from Pearl Harbor, Camp Lejeune, NC, and Groton, CT, are scheduled for missions in May.

Exercise Support

Individuals and components of mobile medical augmentation readiness teams (MMARTs) support various exercises/operations as required, bolstering the "organic" medical assets of the units involved.

Surgical Team Two from Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA, and Surgical Team Seven from Naval Hospital Pensacola, FL, are on routine 48-Hour alert for any emergency situations.

Surgical Team Three from Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, CA, is providing medical support on board USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) in Operation Cobra Gold-95.

Surgical Team Five from Naval Medical Center Oakland, CA, is providing medical support for a WESTPAC exercise on board USS New Orleans (LPH 11).

Fleet Surgical Teams are also deployed to provide additional medical support where needed, as directed by the CINCs.

Miscellaneous OCONUS and Fleet Support

Providing TAD (temporary additional duty) support to 10 fleet platforms and eight OCONUS facilities are 18 Navy Medical Department personnel: 10 Medical Corps, two Medical Service Corps, one Nurse Corps and five Hospital Corpsmen.

-USN-

3. Two-month calendar of events, observances and anniversaries:

MAY

Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month (202/272-3427)

National Arthritis Month (404/872-7100, ext. 6343)

National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month (1-800-878-4403)

National Clean Air Month (American Lung Association, 212/315-8700)

Better Hearing and Speech Month (301/897-5700)

National Sight-Saving Month (1-800-331-2020)

Better Sleep Month (703/683-8371)

Correct Posture Month (American Chiropractic Association, 1-800-986-4636)

National Digestive Diseases Awareness Month (202/544-7497)

National High Blood Pressure Month (301/251-1222)

Huntington's Disease Awareness Month (1-800-345-HDSA or 212/242-1968)

National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month (Department of Communications, American Academy of Dermatology, 930 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173)

National Mental Health Month (703/684-7722)

National Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month (1-800-323-7938)

National Stroke Awareness Month (American Heart Association: 1-800-553-6321; National Stroke Association: 1-800-STROKES)

Older Americans Month (202/401-4541)

National Trauma Awareness Month (1-800-556-7890)

National Bike Month "A Fun Way to Stay Healthy"

1 May, 0001: NDW shifts to summer uniform

1 May: Law Day USA

1-7 May: Public Service Recognition Week

4 May 1494: Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica

4 May: National Day of Prayer

4 May - 6 June: 1995 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive -- "Assisting Sailors, Marines and Their Families for 91 Years"

5 May 1847: American Medical Association began

5 May 1925: John Scopes arrested for teaching evolution

6 May: Nurses Day

6-12 May: National Nurses Week (202-651-7021)

7-13 May: National Running and Fitness Week (301/913-9317)

7-13 May: National Hospital Week (916/552-7577)

7-13 May: Be Kind to Animals Week

8 May 1945: V-E Day
 8-14 May: National Stuttering Awareness Week (1-800-922-9392)
 9 May: Morning (0600-0800) and Night (until 2200) Detailing (Washington, DC, time)
 12 May: Military Spouse Day
 12 May 1820: Florence Nightingale born
 13 May 1908: Navy Nurse Corps Birthday
 14 May: Mother's Day
 14-20 May: Armed Forces Week -- "Forces for Freedom"
 14-20 May: National Emergency Medical Services Week (202/728-0610)
 14-20 May: National Medical Transcriptionist Week (209/551-0883)
 14-20 May: National Nursing Home Week (202/842-4444)
 14-20 May: National Osteoporosis Prevention Week (202/223-2226)
 15 May: Reserve O-5/O-6 Staff Selection Board Convenes
 17 May: National Employee Health and Fitness Day (312/237-5630)
 20 May: Armed Forces Day -- "Forces for Freedom"
 20-26 May: National Safe Boating Week -- "It Won't Work If You Don't Wear It"
 21-27 May: National Surgical Technologists Week (303/694-9130)
 22-28 May: National Park Week
 23 May 1785: Bi-focal glasses announced
 23 May: Morning (0600-0800) and Night (until 2200) Detailing (Washington, DC, time)
 25 May: National Missing Children's Day (914/255-1848)
 29 May: Memorial Day Observed
 30 May: Memorial Day
 30 May: Muharram (Islamic New Year)
 31 May: National Senior Health & Fitness Day (708/816-8660 or 1-800-828-8225)
 31 May: World No Tobacco Day (World Health Organization, 202/466-5883)
 31 May: Senior Enlisted Academy Board Convenes
 31 May: Ensign FitReps Due

JUNE

National Hernia Month (1-800-845-8852)
 National Scleroderma Awareness Month (1-800-722-HOPE)
 American Rivers Month
 1 June - 4 July: Fireworks Safety Month (Prevent Blindness America, 1-800-331-2020)
 1 June: Career Nurse Assistants Day (216/825-9342)
 1 June 1980: CNN Began Broadcasting
 3-4 June: Children's Miracle Network (801-278-8900)
 4-10 June: National Safety Week (708/692-4121, ext. 218)
 6 June: E-7 Selection Board Convenes
 6 June: National Health Care Recruiter Recognition Day (216/867-3088)
 11 June: National Hug Day
 11-17 June: National Hug Holiday Week (Hugs for Health

Foundation, 714/832-HUGS (4847))

12 June: Active Duty O-4 Staff Corps Selection Board
Convenes

12 June: Reserve O-4 Medical Corps Selection Board Convenes

12-18 June: National Little League Baseball Week

14 June: Flag Day

14 June 1775: U.S. Army Founded

15 June 1215: Magna Carta Signed

17 June 1898: Hospital Corps Established

18 June: Father's Day

21 June, 1634 EDT: Summer Solstice

25 June - 1 July: Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week
(516/944-8900, ext. 325)

27 June: Helen Keller's birthday

30 June: E-4 Evaluations Due

-USN-

4. ADDRESSEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND NEWS
ITEMS OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OR BENEFICIARY INTEREST (IN STORY
FORMAT) BY TELEPHONE, FAX OR E-MAIL TO BUMED, ATTN: EDITOR,
NAVAL SERVICE MEDICAL NEWS (MED 00P2). TELEPHONE (202) 653-0793,
DSN 294-0793. FAX (202) 653-0086, DSN 294-0086. E-MAIL
NMC0ENL@BUMED10.MED.NAVY.MIL//

-USN-